



REVIEWS

BOOKS

Reviewed by Ruth Parnell

HIDDEN AGENDAS

by John Pilger

Publisher: Vintage, UK, 1998

ISBN: 0-099-74151-2 (687pp p/b)

Price: AUD\$19.95; NZD\$24.95;

STG£10.50 inc. p&h; NLGf32,90;

CAN\$21.95

Distributors: **Aust/NZ/UK/Can**— Random House; **UK/Europe**— NEXUS offices.

John Pilger is a rare journalist and filmmaker who is almost as controversial as his subject matter. His latest *tour de force*, *Hidden Agendas*, is titled as such because he asserts it is not enough for journalists to be mere messengers: they need to understand the hidden agendas behind the messages and the myths surrounding them.

This "information age", he explains, is one of the great myths of modern times. With the limits imposed by the mainstream media we cannot hope to get a truthful picture of what's really going on in our world. Thus, *Hidden Agendas* is devoted to "slow news"—the important world events which are unreported and under-reported, which are misrepresented, sanitised and trivialised by propaganda and censorship.

Pilger covers a great deal of ground (much of which has been bombed, napalmed and nuked). He looks behind the scenes of UN "peace-keeping" missions and the UK armaments industry, and at the role of the IMF and World Bank in the globalisation agenda. He considers the post-Gulf War fate of Iraqi civilians, the plight of Burmese dissidents, the fight of the Liverpool dockers and life in "new" Britain, South Africa and Vietnam.

His chapter dealing with the East Timorese betrayal by both Liberal and Labor governments in Australia is indicative of how economic, political and military interests can so cynically dismiss and suppress basic human rights. Anyone concerned with the social injustices of the world will despair at Pilger's revelations, but will be inspired by those brave enough to resist oppression.

MAD COW USA: Could the Nightmare Happen Here?

by Sheldon Rampton and John Stauber

Publisher: Common Courage, USA, 1997

ISBN: 1-56751-111-2 (246pp h/c)

Price: AUD\$50.00; NLGf54.90; USD\$25

+ \$5 p&h; o/s airmail, contact publisher

Distributors: **Aust**—Cameron Books, ph (02) 4758 7676, fax (02) 4758 9047;

Europe—NEXUS office; **USA**—Common Courage Press, PO Box 702, Monroe, ME 04951, ph (207) 525 0900, 1800 497 3207 (toll-free), fax (207) 525 3068.

US FDA regulations passed in June 1997 to ban the feeding of rendered sheep and cattle to ruminants have come nearly a decade too late, argue the authors of *Mad Cow USA*. Apart from being difficult to enforce, these regulations are inadequate: they fail to prohibit cannibalistic feeding practices in other animals consumed by humans, e.g., pigs and chickens, and they don't address the problem of BSE-contaminated protein getting into anything from cosmetics and drugs to garden fertilisers.

Authors Sheldon Rampton and John Stauber edit *PR Watch*, published by the Center for Media & Democracy, and they have an informed perspective on lobbying by industry groups and food authorities to

minimise the impact of regulations on their practices. Apart from the media downplaying the BSE/CJD threat, PR and legal firms counter valid consumer concerns by denigrating scientists and activists who have argued for years for the implementation of complete preventive measures in the US.

Rampton and Stauber detail the scientific discoveries behind BSE, CJD, kuru, scrapie and other transmissible spongiform diseases and document the trans-Atlantic political, social and economic background of BSE and its link with CJD. Indeed, TSEs are not unknown in the US, and news of the 1979 discovery of a TSE-type disease in pigs is disturbing in terms of the new FDA regulations. US authorities and the American people would be mad to ignore these warnings.



REVIEWS



BOOKS

THE EARTH'S SHIFTING AXIS: Clues to Nature's Most Perplexing Mysteries by Mac B. Strain

Publisher: ATL Press, Inc., USA, 1997

ISBN: 1-882360-30-3 (270pp h/c);

1-882360-31-1 (s/c)

Price: USD\$42.95, USD\$52.50 (outside USA) (h/c); USD\$19.95, USD\$29.50 (outside USA) (s/c); NLGf43,90

Distributor: **USA**—ATL Press, Inc., PO Box 4563 T Station, Shrewsbury, MA 01545, ph (508) 898 2290, fax (508) 898 2063; **Europe**—NEXUS office.

Science has yet to explain so many of the geological events that have shaped the surface of our planet. We still don't know for sure what caused the so-called ice ages, or continental lands high above sea level to be invaded by ocean, or miles-thick sedimentary beds to be deposited, or mammoths to be snap-frozen. One grossly overlooked factor in our planet's evolution, argues retired engineer/geologist Mac Strain, is the periodic shifting of the Earth's axis.

In his book, *The Earth's Shifting Axis*, Strain presents his Dynamic Axis Theory which posits that weight shifts on the planet change the centrifugal forces at the equator, causing the axis to wobble and seek a new rotational balance. As the Earth's equatorial diameter is approx. 27 miles greater than the polar diameter, and as the North Pole wanders, we have a recipe for "axis surge".

While he is not the first to point to the effect of axis shift, Strain has gone to great lengths to back up his theory with supporting mathematics and geophysical evidence.

He argues that "magma seas" respond to changes in these same centrifugal forces by causing crustal dynamics such as earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. He suggests that his theory may also explain both latitude and elevation changes that affect regional climates—and much more.

Mac Strain by no means claims to have all the answers, but he does pose thought-provoking questions that he hopes other scientists and engineers will continue to research.

GODS OF EDEN by Andrew Collins

Publisher: Headline, UK, 1998

ISBN: 0-7472-2108-1 (372pp h/c)

0-7472-7504-1 (s/c)

Price: AUD\$49.95 (h/c), \$29.95 (s/c); NZD\$69.95 (h/c); STG£21.00 (h/c) inc. p&h; NLGf68,90

Distributors: **Aust/NZ/UK**—Hodder Headline; **UK/Europe**—NEXUS offices.

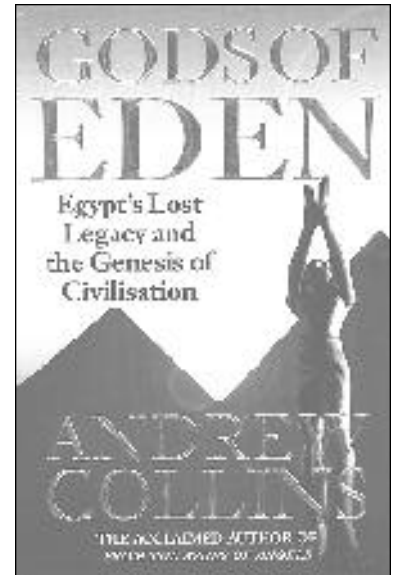
This second book from Andrew Collins (author of *From The Ashes of Angels*) is an absorbing read that raises more questions than it answers. Collins argues that "Elder Gods" sparked the birth of civilisation in the upper Euphrates Valley around the 10th millennium BC. But prior to that they were based in Egypt, where they built the Sphinx and the Valley Temple at Giza and taught agriculture and precision tooling to the people—until the post-ice-age climatic chaos around 10,500–9500 BC sent them to higher ground, to what is now Kurdistan.

Collins claims that the legacy of the Elder Gods can be seen in places like Nevali Çori in south-eastern Turkey, dated to at least 8,000 BC, where advanced agricultural, architectural and technological practices preceded the Sumerian civilisation by several

thousand years. Collins identifies the Lake Van region (the source of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers) as the biblical Garden of Eden, but concedes it is still not the home of the Elder Gods.

Collins goes on to say that when the Sumerians finally found their roots, they established Egypt's first dynastic line—the secrets of the Gods being under the protection of the Heliopolis priesthood who later influenced the Hebrew tribes.

The source of these Gods is still elusive, for they have left evidence at megalithic sites not only in Egypt and eastern Turkey, but in Central and South America, Europe and even Australia. Collins thus leaves us none the wiser as to their origins, but takes us on a fascinating journey nonetheless.





REVIEWS

BOOKS

VACCINATION ROULETTE: Experiences, Risks and Alternatives from Australian Vaccination Network

Publisher: AVN, Bangalow, NSW, 1998
ISBN: 1329-4873 (326pp s/c)
Price: AUD\$28.00 inc. p&h; AUD\$35.00
airmail NZ; AUD\$40.00 airmail else-
where; STG£14.50 inc. p&h in UK
Distributors: **Australia**—Australian
Vaccination Network, PO Box 177,
Bangalow, NSW 2479, ph +61 (0)2 6687
1699, fax +61 (0)2 6687 2032; **UK**—
NEXUS office.

Vaccination is a gamble against unknown odds, but in the interests of informed decision-making the Australian Vaccination Network (AVN) has produced this aptly titled compendium, *Vaccination Roulette*.

The AVN stresses that people need to be more aware of vaccine dangers. Adverse side-effects are considerably underreported or misdiagnosed by ill-informed doctors, while politicians use statistics and defy logic to justify the perceived broad social benefit at the expense of individuals who die or are severely disabled by vaccines.

So AVN has selected contributions from scientists, doctors and researchers on the risks and (few) benefits of a variety of vaccines, and has included some truly heart-rending stories from parents whose children have suffered at the hands of the medical/pharmaceutical 'mafia' or have experienced favourable results with vaccine alternatives.

The AVN editors themselves have written an incisive intro and conclusion of particular relevance in Australia: their stance is that

"it is morally, ethically and scientifically impossible to justify or to enforce compulsory vaccination". In any case, as they point out, the Australian government is stopping just short of compulsory childhood vaccination lest it follow US experience and have massive damage payouts on its hands.

Vaccination should be a matter of informed choice, so, with this in mind, AVN has provided support group contacts and resources both for Australia and overseas as well as substantial research references.

THE SECOND MESSIAH by Christopher Knight & Robert Lomas

Publisher: Century, UK, 1997
ISBN: 0-7126-7719-4 (267pp h/c);
0-0992-2732-0 (s/c)
Price: AUD\$39.95 (h/c), \$16.95 (s/c);
NZD\$18.95 (s/c); STG£8.00 (s/c) inc. p&h;
NLGf61,90 (h/c)

Distributors: **Aust/NZ/UK**—Random House; **UK/Eur**—NEXUS offices.

In their ongoing quest to find the missing history of Freemasonry, Christopher Knight and Robert Lomas (authors of *The Hiram Key*) further explore the rise and (official) fall of the Knights Templars in their follow-up book, *The Second Messiah*.

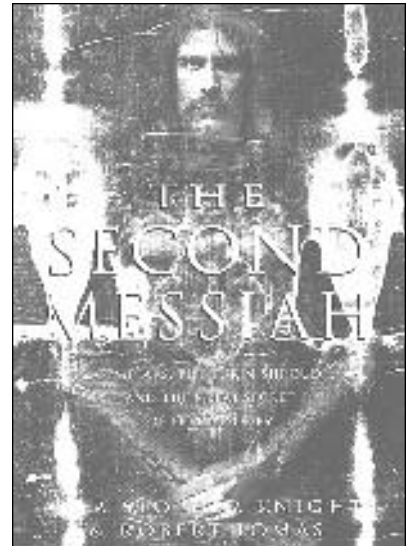
Their fact-finding mission takes in the fall of Jerusalem in AD 70 but then jumps a thousand years to 1118 with the Messianic bloodline heirs returning to Jerusalem to 'retrieve' the 'treasure' buried under the Temple and become its guardians. These Knights Templars rediscovered and practised the ancient traditions, including kingship and priesthood rituals, and accumulated immense wealth—but were outlawed by Philip IV of France and the Church in 1312.

The authors were surprised to learn the

ancient and mediaeval roots of many higher-degree rituals of the Ancient Scottish Rite of Freemasonry. One ritual relates to the mock Crucifixion torture of Grand Master Jacques de Molay (the second Messiah?) in 1307. They were astounded to learn that the photographic image on the so-called Shroud of Turin is quite probably that of Jacques de Molay. The ritual cloth absorbed his bodily secretions which became fixed over time by natural chemical reactions.

Such a revelation will not be popular with the Church or among the faithful—nor with certain Freemasons. Indeed, the authors despair at how certain rites perpetuated by the Knights Templars have been abandoned or corrupted by ignorance and Masonic vested interests in the last 300 years.

Surely now is the time for the 'guardians' to reveal the truth?



REVIEWS



BOOKS

CAN BACTERIA CAUSE CANCER?

by David J. Hess

Publisher: New York Uni. Press, 1997

ISBN: 0-8147-3561-4 (233pp h/c);

0-8147-3562-2 (s/c)

Price: AUD\$50.00; STG£24.00;

NLGf\$59.90; USD\$26.95

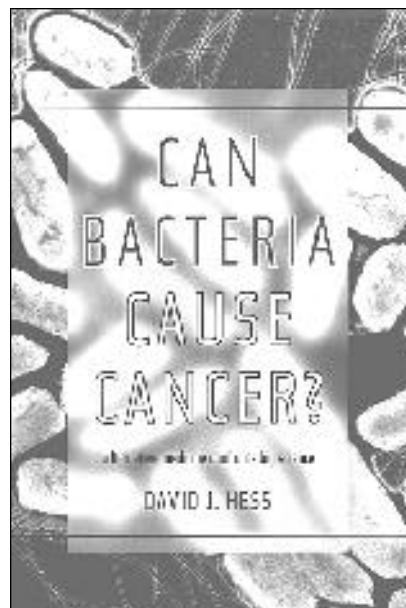
Distributors: **Aust**—Cameron Books, ph (02) 4758 7676; **UK/Eur**—NEXUS offices;

USA—New York University Press, ph 1800 996 6987 (toll-free in US), website, www.nyupress.nyu.edu.

Today, the consensus on the link between bacteria and cancer is that bacteria isolated from cancer tissues represent secondary infections that have nothing to do with tumour genesis. But there is a fascinating research tradition into a bacterial (or microbial) cause for cancer.

As anthropologist/science studies professor David J. Hess explains in *Can Bacteria Cause Cancer?*, the consensus arose due to several factors. It was a combination of suppression, the power of financial and professional interests plus the cultural and gender-logical factors of an increasingly industrialised climate that caused the demise of promising research and therapies, including cancer vaccines, from Coley, Glover, Rife and Livingstone, and the rise of invasive surgery and toxic treatments.

Cancer research became institutionalised, and new specialisations arose that had little knowledge of the theory or implications of pleomorphism: that micro-organisms have multiple evolutionary stages. The theory as



espoused by Antoine Béchamp was considered extreme and was discounted by the medical 'establishment' of the day. In view of DNA research since the 1950s, Hess, too, discounts the extreme pleomorphic view.

Though he rejects the single microbe theory, Hess argues for the overhaul of cancer research, therapies and policies to allow further investigation of promising alternative theories and treatments. Research into bacterial, fungal, viral, parasitic and amoebic causation does continue today, albeit underground and with little recognition.

THE CASE FOR THE FACE: Evidence for Alien Artifacts on Mars

edited by Stanley V. McDaniel and Monica Rix Paxson

Publisher: Adventures Unlimited, 1998

ISBN: 0-932813-59-3 (311pp s/c)

Price: AUD\$30.00; NZD\$36.50;

STG£15.50; NLGf\$39.90; USD\$17.95 + postage & handling

Distributors: **Aust/NZ/UK/Eur**—NEXUS offices; **USA**—Adventures Unlimited, PO Box 74, Kempton, IL 60946, ph (815) 253 6390, fax (815) 253 6300.

The so-called "Face" in the Cydonia region of Mars, first photographed by the Viking mission in 1976 and again by the Mars Global Surveyor in early April this year, is nothing more than a natural geological formation, a mesa, according to NASA. The media have been dismissive, seizing a chance to denigrate the "conspiracy theorists" who claim there is evidence for the formation being an artificial structure or at least a natural form that has been sculpted by other than just natural erosion processes.

Many of these alleged "conspiracy theorists" happen to be respected space scientists, physicists, photographic specialists, engineers, geologists and anthropologists—some of whom have even worked for NASA. A collection of their research into the Martian mysteries has been compiled in *The Case For The Face*, released just prior to the first Global Surveyor image.

A browse through this book does strike it home how a considerable body of evidence for the Face can be rejected outright with just one photo taken from one view without any variation of light angle or distance—and rejected by scientists and reporters who have barely investigated the Face, let alone the landscape anomalies of the nearby "City", which are in square-root-of-two relationship to each other. The release of the City images in late April has not quelled the controversy (see Twilight Zone this issue).

No one wants to 'lose face' over these anomalies, but closer study is warranted if all the questions are to be answered.



REVIEWS

BOOKS

THE KEYS TO THE TEMPLE

by David Furlong

Publisher: Piatkus Books, UK, 1997

ISBN: 0-7499-1745-8 (312pp h/c)

Price: AUD\$34.95; NZD\$49.95;

STG£16.99; NLGf61,90; USD\$16.95;

CAN\$27.95

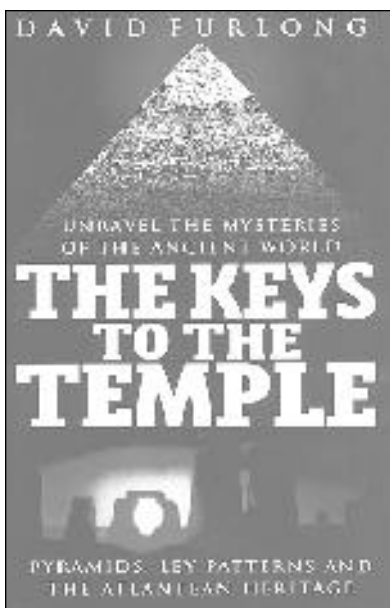
Distributors: **Aust**—Hodder Headline, ph (02) 9841 2800; **NZ**—David Bateman Ltd, ph (09) 415 7664; **UK**—Piatkus Books, ph 0171 631 0710; **Europe**—NEXUS; **USA**—London Bridge, ph 1800 805 1083; **Can**—General Publishing, 1800 387 0141.

In 1975, David Furlong (a surveyor/town planner and a practising healer) made an exciting discovery while studying the patterns, alignments, sacred sites and ley energies of Marlborough Downs, Wiltshire, UK.

He identified a twin-circle pattern (a *vesica pisces* design), each with a radius of 5.96 miles (9,570 metres), upon which lies an array of barrows, tumuli, henges such as Avebury, and churches (some built on pre-existing sites) in geometric relationship with each other and with other major ley lines.

The next year he discovered, hidden within its design, the geometric blueprint of the Great Pyramid of Khufu at Giza in Egypt!

The Keys to the Temple is the culmination of 25 years of research into this relationship. Furlong draws on the groundbreaking 'ley-hunting' research of Alfred Watkins in the 1920s and John Michell who identified the St Michael's ley in his 1969 book, *View Over Atlantis*. He also speculates on what the Knights Templars knew about the site's parallels with the Pyramid's secrets.



Furlong argues that the emergence of the stone circle epoch in Neolithic Britain coincided with the rise of dynastic Egypt around 3,100 BC. The progenitors of these cultures were survivors of a catastrophe and passed on their advanced knowledge of astronomy, geometry, surveying, engineering and masonry to the people in these distant lands. His claim that this catastrophe was the final fall of Atlantis conflicts with another school of thought that marks it at circa 10,500 BC.

Applying his surveying and computing skills, Furlong presents a compelling explanation for how the ancients designed their complex landscape alignments.

BRINGING THE WAR HOME

by William Thomas

Publisher: Earthpulse Press, USA, 1998

ISBN: 1-890693-24-3 (444pp h/c)

Price: AUD\$40.00; STG£18.50;

USD\$19.95 + p&h

Distributors: **Aust**—Cameron Books, ph (02) 4758 7676; **UK**—NEXUS office;

USA—Adventures Unlimited, ph (815) 253 6390, fax (815) 253 6300.

The devastating effects of the Persian Gulf War will be felt for generations to come. More than 100,000 US and UK service personnel, their spouses and children stricken with a variety of illnesses broadly defined as "Gulf War syndrome", can attest to this—as can millions of Iraqi civilians.

In *Bringing the War Home*, Canadian journalist/activist William Thomas writes a hard-hitting exposé of the military, sci-tech, political and ecological madness before, during and since the Gulf War. To the detriment of his own health, Thomas worked in the region with GEERT, the Gulf Environmental Emergency Response Team he helped form right after the Gulf oil spill that came ashore on the Saudi Arabian coast.

Thomas documents the facts the Pentagon actively denies: chemical and biological warfare by Iraq (denied because between 1985–1989 American taxpayers subsidised the export of large quantities of CBW raw materials to Iraq); the US use of depleted uranium shells that often backfired on their own troops and are implicated in the growing incidence of cancer and deformities in Iraqi children; and the vast array of illnesses attributed not only to CBW attack and oil/oilfire pollution but an untested cocktail of vaccines, pesticides and other contaminants.

Thomas is not afraid to expose the military-industrial war machine that refuses to take responsibility for the horrors it has unleashed. He writes of the suffering soldiers and their families, and the scientists who, against the odds, attempt to understand their symptoms and alleviate their pain.

REVIEWS



BOOKS

MILK: The Deadly Poison by Robert Cohen

Publisher: Argus Publishing, USA, 1998
ISBN: 0-9659196-0-9 (330pp h/c)
Price: STG£22.00; NFG\$54.90;
USD\$24.95; CAN\$34.00

Distributors: **UK/Europe**—NEXUS offices;
USA—Argus Publishing, Inc. 301 Sylvan
Avenue, Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632, ph
(201) 871 5871, toll-free 1888 668 6455,
fax (201) 871 9304.

Contrary to what the dairy industry would have us believe, milk and dairy products are by no means a recipe for good health. Cow's milk contains bovine growth hormones, bacteria and antibiotics, cholesterol and fat, pesticides and viruses, to name but a few substances, and is implicated in causing breast cancer, osteoporosis, heart diseases and chronic childhood illness. It cannot be digested by any mammals beyond infancy—and humans are no exception.

But what happens when dairy cows are injected with a genetically engineered bovine growth hormone? Apart from the cows suffering adverse health effects like mastitis (they're not meant to produce milk in the quantities demanded by modern industry), their milk creates significantly increased levels of the insulin-like growth factor 1 (IGF-1) which is identical in cows and humans. The hormone is not killed by pasteurisation or human gastric acids, and its bioactivity rises nearly 30 times in the presence of oestrogens. When nations with the highest rates of breast cancer have the highest per-capita intake of milk and dairy

products, is it wise for engineered growth hormones to be foisted on consumers?

All this and much more is excruciatingly documented by Robert Cohen in *Milk: The Deadly Poison*. Following the US FDA's approval of rBGH in 1993, he embarked on a fact-finding crusade that revealed collusion between Monsanto (the company that developed rBGH), various authorities (the FDA, NIH, USDA, AMA) and Congress. Between them they sanctioned a substance that has never been tested in human trials, and that the European Community has even deemed unsafe. You have been warned!

THE MYSTERY OF EASTER ISLAND by Katherine Routledge

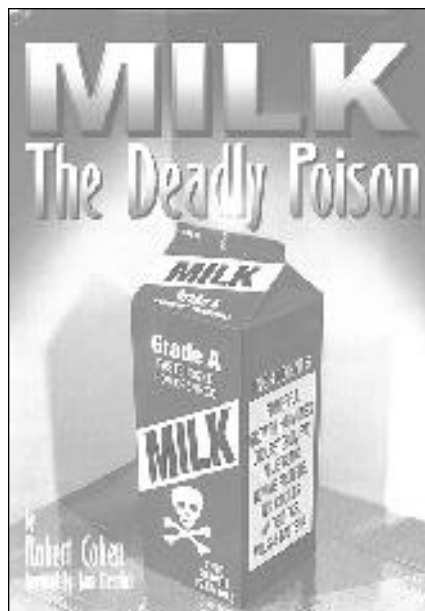
Publisher: Adventures Unlimited, USA,
1998 (first published 1919)
ISBN: 0-932813-48-8 (404pp s/c)
Price: AUD\$28.00; NZD\$34.90; STG£15;
NLGf37.90; USD\$16.95 + p&h
Distributors: **Aust/NZ/UK/Eur**—NEXUS
offices; **USA**—Adventures Unlimited, PO
Box 74, Kempton, IL 60946, ph (815) 253
6390, fax (815) 253 6300.

In 1913 a scientific expedition set sail from Southampton, England, aboard the yacht *Mana* on what would be a 2½-year journey. *The Mystery of Easter Island* (first published in 1919 and now reprinted), documents their outward voyage down South America and around Patagonia, the eighteen months they spent on Easter Island, and their homeward journey via Pitcairn Island, Tahiti, Hawaii and San Francisco, through the Panama Canal to Jamaica and Bermuda and then back home to England.

The author, Kathleen Routledge, accompanied her husband not only to document the voyage in words and sketches but, particularly on Easter Island, to study the inhabitants' cultural and historical background while he investigated their artefacts.

Her book remains a valuable sourcebook for what it tells of the Easter islanders' lives and the legends about their origins and wars, their strange *rongo-rongo* script (only recently deciphered), their "bird cult" rites (still being practised in 1914), and, of course, their enigmatic stone statues—most of which had been toppled or destroyed in the preceding 200 years of European presence on the island. Routledge surmises that the islanders' ancestors migrated there in 'waves' no longer than 1,000 years ago.

The expedition members explored the island's secret caves, roads, pyramid platforms and rock carvings as well as the statues, some still only half-cut in their quarries. Their intrepid wanderings and meetings were amply photographed, illustrated and mapped for this now-classic text.





REVIEWS

THE SIRIUS MYSTERY

by Robert Temple

Publisher: Century, UK, 1998
ISBN: 0-7126-7874-3 (440pp h/c)
Price: AUD\$35.00; NZD\$39.95;
STG£17.50 inc. p&h; NLGf61.90
Distributors: **Aust/NZ/UK**— Random House; **UK/Eur**— NEXUS offices.

The 1976 release of *The Sirius Mystery* created huge public interest and a scientific furore. Since then, author/scholar Robert Temple has endured ill-argued criticism from academia, and ill-placed attention from several 'intelligence' agencies, to continue his research and produce a revised, expanded edition of his milestone book.

The thesis of *The Sirius Mystery* focuses on the Dogon tribe of Mali, whose ancient traditions and legends incorporate knowledge about the Sirius star system. (The invisible Sirius B was only discovered last century and not photographed until 1970, while Sirius C was only confirmed in 1995.)

Temple argues that the ancestors of the Dogon migrated to the region, taking with them knowledge they obtained from a common source that influenced the Sumerians and Egyptians about 5,000 years ago. That source, he suggests, was visitors from Sirius, who passed on their astronomical, mathematical and technological knowledge.

Anubis the dog (protector of the secrets) and the "Dog Star" Sirius were important to the Egyptians, and Temple points to evidence that the Sphinx was not a statue of a lion but of Anubis. He explains the water erosion on the Sphinx as being the result of its body being surrounded in ancient times by a water-filled moat that periodically silted up and had to be drained. This also accounts for the head of the Sphinx showing

less erosion than the body. So, he argues, the erosion was not caused by severe climatic change, and thus the Sphinx is younger than geologists like Robert Schoch suggest—maybe only 5,000 or so years old.

Temple also identifies a fascinating discrepancy in the dimensions of the two largest Giza pyramids that equates with the 1.053 mass differential between Sirius B and our Sun—the so-called "sacred fraction". This, he believes, can be no accident, and smacks of intervention from the stars.

KOMBUCHA TEA FOR YOUR HEALTH AND HEALING

by Alick & Mari Bartholomew

Publisher: Gateway Books, UK, 1998
ISBN: 1-85860-049-9 (190pp s/c)
Price: AUD\$26.95; NZD\$39.95;
STG£10.00; USD\$14.95; CAN\$21.95 + \$3.95 p&h

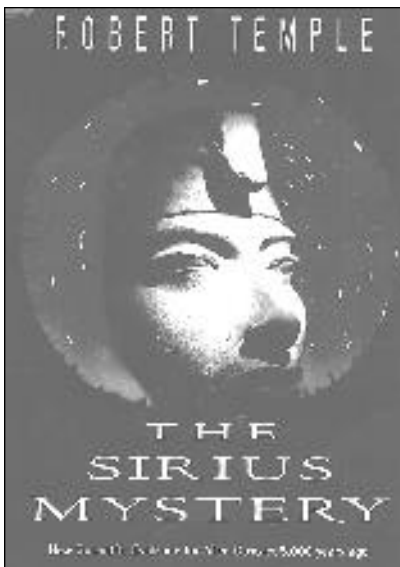
Distributors: **Aust**—Banyan Tree Book Distributors, ph (08) 8363 4244; **NZ**—Peaceful Living Publications, ph (07) 571 8105; **UK**—NEXUS office; **USA**—Access Publishers Network, ph (616) 276 5196, 1800 345 0096; **Canada**—Temeron Books, ph (403) 283 0900.

The authors of this comprehensive guide to kombucha (the healing fungus with an illustrious ancient Eastern history) have included up-to-date research in order to make both orthodox and complementary health practitioners more aware of its amazing properties as a metabolic balancer, a probiotic, an adaptogen and a detoxifier.

The book, *Kombucha Tea for your Health and Healing*, was written by Alick and Mari Bartholomew (he the publisher of Gateway Books, and she a shiatsu therapist), who started The Kombucha Tea Network in the UK in 1993. (Alick, by the way, was instrumental in producing a revised edition of Harald Tietze's *Kombucha: The Miracle Fungus*, which he first came across in a NEXUS review! Indeed, Harald's book has been the Network's bible ever since.)

Just about all you need to know about how the kombucha fungus works, how to prepare a culture and how to brew the tea successfully is covered in the Bartholomews' book. There's a summary of medical research, an extensive Q&A section, an A-Z of diseases and imbalances that can be treated with the fungus, plus information on contraindications, cancer prevention, first aid, holistic self-healing, recipes, cosmetics and caring for animals and plants.

The Bartholomews also include detailed case histories from kombucha users who attest to its efficacy and empowering benefits. If you've not yet explored this phenomenal fungus, this is a great place to start.



REVIEWS



VIDEOS

Reviewed by Duncan Roads

LETHAL MEDICINE

Producer: The Nature of Wellness, USA, 1997 (PAL & NTSC, 55mins)
Price: AUD\$38 in Aust; AUD\$41.50 to NZ; USD\$40 to UK/Eur; USD\$27 in USA; USD\$35 to Canada/Sth America
Distributors: **Aust/NZ**— Campaign Against Fraudulent Medical Research, PO Box 234, Lawson NSW 2783, Australia, phone/fax +61 (0)2 4758 6822, e-mail, cafmr@pnc.com.au; **USA/Can/UK/Eur**— The Nature of Wellness, PO Box 10400, Glendale, CA 91209-3400, ph (818) 790 6384, fax (818) 790 9660, e-mail, supress@earthlink.net, website, www.animalresearch.org.

This is without a doubt the very best documentary I have ever seen that details the subject of animal experimentation. If you're squeamish, don't worry; this is not a video that relies on emotive animal-suffering imagery to capture your attention and support. This is a video that deals with the scientific facts!

It is a scientific fact that an animal's reaction to drug- or substance-testing bears absolutely no relevance to that substance's effects on humans. The documented evidence presented here by experts will astound and amaze all viewers, even the 'converted'.

The viewer gradually realises that because the species are so different, it is a complete and cruel fallacy to assume that drugs and substances are therefore safe for human exposure or consumption. Many, if not most, of the horrific side-effects of modern medicine occur largely because substances are not tested on humans but on animals—hence the title, "Lethal Medicine".

Everyone should watch this video!



VACCINATION: The Hidden Truth

Producer: Taycare Pty Ltd, Australia, 1997 (PAL & NTSC, 90mins)

Price: AUD\$40.00 inc. p&h; NZD, STG, NLG, USD prices on application
Distributor: **Aust/NZ/UK/Eur**— NEXUS offices; **Aust**—Taycare Pty Ltd, Suite 20, 10-12 Ray St, Turrumurra NSW 2074, ph (02) 9144 6625, fax (02) 9440 3001, e-mail, taycare@byronit.com; **USA**—New Atlantean Press, ph (505) 983 1856.

What can I say? Again, this is without a doubt the very best documentary in terms of content on the subject of vaccines and immunisation that I have ever seen! It is jammed full of scientific facts, all drawn from peer-reviewed medical literature and delivered by doctors and researchers who, after investigating the subject, are speaking out about the dangers.

If you or your friends don't have time to read books on the subject of vaccination, then get this video. It is tremendously informative on all aspects of the debate, including how to tackle fixing the damage caused by vaccines.

This is a video that every doctor should watch and respond to. It is a sad day when doctors rely more on drug company propaganda for information than their own peer-reviewed literature!

HIGH STRANGE NEW MEXICO

Producer: Taos Communications Empire, USA, 1997 (107mins)

Price: USD\$24.95 + \$4.00 p&h (+ \$1.45 sales tax in NM)

Distributor: **USA**—Taos Communications Empire, Inc., 4221 Brockmont NE, Albuquerque, NM 87108, ph (505) 260 0965, e-mail Honalu@aol.com.

Don't be put off by the title! This great movie covers much more than just 'high strangeness' in New Mexico.

Sure, it covers the Roswell incident and Socorro, the waves of UFOs overflying large towns in broad daylight during the 1950s and many other unexplained phenomena, but, utilising interviews, etc., it also explores what's going on in people's heads about it all—which extends the boundaries well beyond New Mexico!

I like the fact that the producers gave time to people who were mildly sceptical, as well as time to people directly involved with each case. The video gives what I consider to be an accurate perspective on what is going on in many people's minds, and thus captures the current pulse of ufology extremely well.

This is not a video that tries to convince you of anything. It is well edited, well documented and, overall, leaves you thinking. As you can tell, I like it!



REVIEWS

AUDIO

Reviewed by Richard Giles

THE MUSIC OF ISLAM (compilation)

Producers: David Parsons for Celestial Harmonies, Arizona, USA, 1997 (79mins)
Distributors: **Australia**—Festival, ph (02) 9660 4022; **USA**—Celestial Harmonies, ph (520) 326 4400, fax (520) 326 3333; US orders, Hear's Music, 1800 501 3472.

One of the misfortunes of the long history of stereotyping and conflict between Islam and the West is that it has fostered ignorance of one another's great music and culture, but David and Kay Parsons, working in cooperation with Celestial Harmonies of the US, have laboured for 10 years to produce this amazing collection. There are 15 albums in the set, covering the entire Islamic belt from Morocco to Indonesia, where one-fifth of the world's people live. This compilation CD has representative tracks from 10 countries as a sampler. A must-have collection, lovingly put together.

STORMBIRD

by Matthew Doyle and Tony Lewis

Producers: Tony Lewis for One World Music, Australia, 1998 (56mins)
Distributors: **Australia**—One World Music, ph (07) 3367 0788; **UK**—New World Music, ph 0198 678 1682.

Australian Aboriginal didgeridoo has been resonating around the planet and is the new 'in' ethnic instrument, like the djembe. Matthew Doyle has recorded three previous albums of didgeridoo music and has been involved with didge and dance for over 15 years as well as with various music and dance projects around the world. For *Stormbird*, he's joined with percussionist/composer Tony Lewis and put together an album of raw, traditional-style didge, backed by Tony's international mix of percussion, whistle, flute, congas and cymbals.



EMER KENNY (self-titled)

Producer: Jeffrey Lesser for Triloka Records, USA, 1998 (51mins)

Distributors: **Australia**—Mercury/PolyGram, ph (02) 9207 0500; **USA**—Triloka/Mercury, ph (310) 996 7200.

A first release from a new Irish singer who blends traditional Celtic with a more contemporary style. Her voice is often very ethereal and floating in style and at times haunting in its impact. Producer Jeffrey Lesser has worked with the likes of The Chieftains and Sinead O'Connor. On Kenny's album he combines pipes, violins, harp (Emer is also a classical harpist), flute and guitars with contemporary keyboards to produce remarkably eclectic arrangements of both the visionary and the ancient in Irish music. A new talent from Eire is abroad!

CAFE PARADISO

by Steve Erquiaga

Producers: Dawn Atkinson and Steve Erquiaga for Imaginary Road Records, USA, 1997 (60mins)

Distributors: **Australia/NZUK** /**USA**—PolyGram Records.

To hear a skilled guitarist play is such a treat. There are so many albums of acoustic guitar being released today and it's great to find one of such exemplary quality as *Café Paradiso*. Steve Erquiaga specialises in contemporary arrangements of the classics and he's done a superb job with these. He includes Bach's "Arioso" and "Prelude in C Minor", Rachmaninov's "Sérénade", and his arrangements of themes from *Cinema Paradiso*. His work has appeared in a number of film soundtracks, including *The Firm* and *Forrest Gump*. Smooth and mellow music from a master of the guitar.

CHAKRADANCER

by Brainscapes

Producer: Alain Eskinasi for Cyber Octave, Malibu, USA, 1997 (59mins)

Distributors: **Australia**—MRA Entertainment, ph (07) 3849 6020; **USA**—Higher Octave Music, fax (310) 589 1525.

Brainscapes is a project of music metaphysician Alain Eskinasi. Experimenting in new ground in musical composition, this album is one of Eskinasi's series using therapeutic music techniques based on the Chinese elements, chakra toning, sound imaging, meditation and trance dance. The techniques are designed to stimulate (not relax) the seven chakras and open up the body's energy centres for creative work and enjoyment. Using seven crystal bowls arranged in the traditional chakra set, he mixes his sound landscapes with ethnic percussion. The result is remarkable.